

Biographical Note

J. S. Tissainayagam was an English-language journalist in Sri Lanka for over 20 years. In March 2008 he was arrested for writing critically against the Sri Lanka government and on August 31, 2009 sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. Tortured and imprisoned for 675 days, he was released due to an international outcry against his unjust imprisonment. He now lives in the US. He was Nieman Fellow at Harvard and Reagan-Fascell Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy. Named Prisoner of Conscience by Amnesty International, he was awarded the International Press Freedom Award by the Committee to Protect Journalists (2009), The Peter Mackler Award for Courageous and Ethical Journalism (2009) and the British Press Freedom Award – Foreign Journalist of the Year (2010). He now contributes to *Foreign Policy Magazine* and *Asian Correspondent* among other publications.